Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05

IGA-01 EB-07 ACDA-05 MC-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /068 W ------ 115104

R 291402Z JUL 75 FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5648 INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

CONFIDENTIAL ADDIS ABABA 9095

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS ET

SUBJECT: DELIVERY OF F-5A'S

- 1. WITH MY CONCURRENCE, CHMAAG YESTERDAY INFORMED MINISTER OF DEFENSE AYALEW THAT (A) ALTHOUGH PLANS ARE MOVING AS FAST AS POSSIBLE, WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF STATEMENT AYALEW HAD MADE THAT ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN TOLD BY USG IN WASHINGTON THAT F-5A'S AND B'S WILL ARRIVE IN FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST, AND (B) THAT THERE IS "SOME RELUCTANCE ON THE POLITICAL SIDE OF THE USG" TO REFUELLING STOP IN ASMARA AND OTHER ALTERNATIVES FOR QUICK DELIVERY NOW BEING EXPLORED URGENTLY.
- 2. TODAY AYALEW ASKED FOR MEETING WITH ME, WHICH TOOK NINETY MINUTES WITH ONLY TWO OF US PRESENT. AYALEW WAS EXTREMELY FRANK ABOUT HIS PROBLEMS WITH SOME EXTREMIST GROUPS WITHIN THE DIRG, AND MAIN BURDEN OF HIS APPROACH WAS TO GIVE USG A SERIOUS ALERT THAT IN ABSENCE IMMEDIATE AND FIRM WORD ON ARRIVAL DATE FOR F-5A'S DIRG REACTION IS UNPREDICTABLE.
- 3. WE HAVE JUST NOW RECEIVED MILITARY MESSAGE THAT FIRST WAVE OF FOUR F5A'S WILL ARRIVE DEBRE ZEIT BY DIRECT FLIGHT FROM JIDDA ON AUG 16, AND THIS HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO AYALEW. NEWS WILL HOPEFULLY ASSUAGE SOME OF MOUNTING CONCERNS WITHIN DIRG, WHICH INVOLVE TORTUOUS, AND SOMETIMES MUTUALLY CONTRADICTORY, CONFIDENTIAL

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THEORIES ON WHY USG IS SUPPOSEDLY STALLING ON F5A'S AND OTHER

ITEMS. MEMCONFOLLOWS BY POUCH. HUMMEL	
CONFIDENTIAL	
NNN	

Message Attributes

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Subject: DELIVERY OF F-5A'S

TAGS: MASS, ET, (AYALEW MANDEFRO)
To: STATE

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